

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
U.S. Application No.: 10/070,994

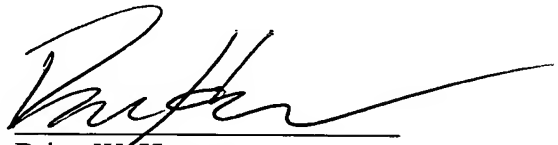
**REMARKS**

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the application.

By way of this amendment, Applicants have amended the application to place it in condition for allowance. In particular, claims 9-15 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 1 and 7 have been amended to address the objection noted in the first paragraph of the Office Action and the § 112 (first paragraph) rejection noted in the third paragraph of the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested it be passed to issue at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian W. Hannon  
Registration No. 32,778

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 8, 2004